



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
St. Paul District

# Information Paper

## Environmental Protection: Mississippi River, Lake Winneshiek, Ferryville, Wis



*Lake Winneshiek area in pool 9 of the Mississippi River.*

### Contact

Don Powell, Project Manager  
(651) 290-5402 (651) 290-5258 (fax)  
[donald.l.powell@usace.army.mil](mailto:donald.l.powell@usace.army.mil)

### Location/Description

Part of the Corps' Environmental Management Program (EMP), Lake Winneshiek is a 6,000-acre backwater lake located on the Wisconsin side of the Mississippi River navigation channel in lower pool 9, about four miles downstream of Lansing, Iowa. The site lies within the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

Some of the natural islands in Lake Winneshiek have eroded and disappeared. These islands served to break up wind fetch and wave action, reduce turbidity, and provide protection to shallow aquatic areas supporting aquatic plant beds. It is believed that the increased wave action and associated turbidity have contributed to the observed loss of aquatic plant beds used by migratory waterfowl.

The proposed project would create two islands, each about 8,000 feet long, in the center of Lake Winneshiek to reduce wave action in this large open water area. The location of the islands would be based on hydraulic considerations and prevailing wind information. If suitable construction material can be found in the backwater area, dredging would provide up to 20 acres of additional deepwater habitat. About 1,200 acres of backwater area would be directly impacted by the project.

### Status

General design for the project is scheduled to begin in 2001.

### Authority

The Lake Winneshiek Habitat Project will be planned under the authority of the Upper Mississippi River System - Environmental Management Program (EMP). The EMP was authorized by Section 1103 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, and reauthorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1999.

The project will be planned and designed as part of a cooperative effort between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Wisconsin and Iowa Departments of Natural Resources, and local interests.

### Fiscal

Project design and construction costs would be 100 percent Federal because the project is located on national wildlife refuge lands. Operation and maintenance costs would be 100 percent Federal (a responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

Federal Cost	\$4,560,000
Non-Federal Cost	\$0
Total Estimated Cost	\$4,560,000